REMARKS

With the addition of claims 79 and 80, claims 1-80 are now pending in the above-referenced application. Applicants acknowledge that claims 20-23 and 41-69 have been withdrawn from consideration pursuant to the election made by Applicants in the Response To Restriction Requirement dated November 4, 1999. Applicants also wish to note with appreciation the indication that claims 5-10, 15-18, 33, 34, 71, and 76-78 include allowable subject matter. Applicants have rewritten claims 5, 10, 15-18, 33, 34, 71, and 76-78 in independent form and respectfully request allowance of these claims and any claim dependent thereon.

Claims 1-4, 11-14, 19, 24-32, 35-38, 70, and 72-75 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,967,986 to Cimochowski et al. ("Cimochowski"). Applicants have amended claim 1 to recite that the sensor support includes a non-solder surface for receiving a sensor. Support for this amendment is found at least at page 11, lines 9-23, of the specification. In rejecting claim 1, the Examiner relies on solder drops 228 as corresponding to the sensor support. By amending claim 1 to recite that the surface of the sensor support that receives the sensor is a non-solder surface, Applicants submit that Cimochowski does not anticipate claim 1. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of claim 1 is respectfully requested.

As for claims 2-4, 11-14, 70, and 72-75, Applicants submit that these claims are patentable for at least the same reason given in support of the patentability of claim 1.

With respect to claim 19, Applicants have amended this claim to recite that the sensor carrier is located outside of an interior of the fixation device. Support for this claim amendment is found at least at Figure 2. Applicants submit that Cimochowski does not anticipate this claim because Cimochowski does not show a sensor carrier that is coupled to a first end of the fixation device and that is located outside of an interior of the fixation device. In particular, the solder drops 228, which the Examiner believes serve as a sensor carrier, are located on a middle portion of a stent, as illustrated in Figure 19, and not at an end of that stent. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of claim 19 is respectfully requested.

Claim 24 has been amended to recite that the sensor is placed onto a non-solder surface of the sensor support. Support for this amendment is found at least at page 11, lines 9-23, of the specification. The Examiner has asserted that solder drops 228 correspond to a sensor support, but this position is no longer tenable given that the claim now recites that the sensor is placed on a non-solder surface of the sensor support. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of claim 24 is respectfully requested.

Claim 25 has been amended to recite that the sensor is placed into a sensor support coupled to a fixation device in order to form a mechanical coupling between the sensor and the sensor support. Given that the coupling between sensor 220 and solder drops 228 in Cimochowski involves a chemical, not mechanical, coupling, Applicants submit that claim 25 is patentable over Cimochowski.

With respect to claims 35-37, Applicants submit that these claims are patentable for at least the same reasons given in support of the patentability of claim 24.

In rejecting claim 38, the Examiner relies on column 24, lines 50-55, of Cimochowski, which shows a stent and, incorporated into a wall of the stent, a plurality of dielectric sensing filaments 234 serving as sensing elements. Together, according to the Examiner, the stent and the filaments constitute a sensor, which is capable of being coupled to a section of a bodily lumen. Applicants have amended claim 38 to recite that the sensor is incapable of having its perimeter expanded to match that of the bodily lumen. Since the "sensor" of Cimochowski, as understood by the Examiner, must be capable of expanding due to its capacity to serve as a stent, Applicants submit that claim 38 is patentable over Cimochowski. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of claim 38 is respectfully requested.

With respect to claims 39 and 40, Applicants submit that these claims are patentable for at least the same reasons given in support of the patentability of claim 38.

Applicants have added new claims 79 and 80 and respectfully submit that they are patentable over the references of record.

The present invention is new, non-obvious, and useful. Reconsideration and allowance of the claims are respectfully requested.

Respectfully Submitted,

KENYON & KENYON

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By: _____
Dervis Magistre
(Reg. No. 41,172)

One Broadway
New York, NY 10004
(212) 425-7200

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In The Claims

Claims 1, 5, 10, 15-19, 24, 25, 33, 34, 38, 71, and 76-78 are amended as set forth below:

1. (Twice Amended) Apparatus for fixation of a sensor in a bodily lumen, comprising:

a fixation device; and

a sensor support coupled to the fixation device and including a non-solder surface for receiving the sensor.

5. (Amended) Apparatus for fixation of a sensor in a bodily lumen, comprising:

a fixation device; and

a sensor support coupled to the fixation device and including a surface for receiving the sensor [The apparatus of claim 1], wherein the fixation device is an anchoring ring.

10. (Amended) Apparatus for fixation of a sensor in a bodily lumen, comprising:

a fixation device; and

a sensor support coupled to the fixation device and including a surface for receiving the sensor [The apparatus of claim 1], wherein the fixation device includes at least a first anchoring ring and a second anchoring ring, and the sensor support is coupled between the first anchoring ring and the second anchoring ring.

15. (Amended) Apparatus for fixation of a sensor in a bodily lumen, comprising:

a fixation device; and

a sensor support coupled to the fixation device and including a surface for receiving the sensor [The apparatus of claim 1], wherein the sensor has at least one notch-like depression disposed in its periphery and wherein at least one portion of the sensor support is positioned withing the at least one notch-like depression.

16. (Amended) Apparatus for fixation of a sensor in a bodily lumen, comprising:

a fixation device; and

a sensor support coupled to the fixation device and including a surface for receiving the sensor [The apparatus of claim 1], wherein the sensor has a groove-like depression at at least one portion of its periphery and wherein at least one portion of the sensor support is positioned within the groove-like depression.

17. (Amended) Apparatus for fixation of a sensor in a bodily lumen, comprising:

a fixation device; and

a sensor support coupled to the fixation device and including a surface for receiving the sensor [The apparatus of claim 1], wherein the sensor [having] has a lip-like extension at at least one portion of its periphery and wherein at least one portion of the lip-like extension [extending] extends beyond the inner-most portion of the sensor support.

18. (Amended) Apparatus for fixation of a sensor in a bodily lumen, comprising:

a fixation device; and

a sensor support coupled to the fixation device and including a surface for receiving the sensor [The apparatus of claim 1], wherein the sensor [having] has at least one protrusion disposed on its periphery and wherein at least one portion of the at least one protrusion [extending] extends beyond the inner-most portion of the sensor support.

19. (Amended) Apparatus for fixation of a sensor in a bodily lumen, comprising:

a fixation device forming a perimeter having a discernable width, the fixation device having a first end and a second end; and

at least one sensor carrier coupled to the first end of the fixation device, the at least one sensor carrier [and] extending generally parallel to the perimeter in a direction away from the second end and being located outside of an interior of the fixation device, wherein the sensor is supported by the sensor carrier.

24. (Amended) A method for fixation of a sensor in a bodily lumen, comprising the steps of:

placing the sensor onto a non-solder surface of a sensor support coupled to a fixation device;

inserting the fixation device into [a] the bodily lumen; and

securing the fixation device within the bodily lumen.

25. (Amended) A method for fixation of a sensor in a bodily lumen, comprising the steps of:

placing the sensor into a sensor support coupled to a fixation device in order to form a mechanical coupling between the sensor and the sensor support;

inserting the fixation device into [a] the bodily lumen; and

securing the fixation device within the bodily lumen.

33. (Amended) A method for fixation of a sensor in a bodily lumen, comprising the steps of:

placing the sensor into a sensor support coupled to a fixation device;

inserting the fixation device into a bodily lumen;

securing the fixation device within the bodily lumen; and

coupling the sensor to the sensor support [The method according to claim 32], wherein the coupling includes positioning at least one portion of the sensor support in at least one groove-like depression in the sensor.

34. (Amended) A method for fixation of a sensor in a bodily lumen, comprising the steps of:

placing the sensor into a sensor support coupled to a fixation device;

inserting the fixation device into a bodily lumen;

securing the fixation device within the bodily lumen; and

coupling the sensor to the sensor support [The method according to claim 32], wherein the coupling includes positioning at least one portion of the sensor support in at least one groove-like depression in the sensor.

38. (Amended) A method for fixation of a sensor in a bodily lumen, the sensor being incapable of having a perimeter thereof expanded to match that of the bodily lumen, the method comprising the steps of:

inserting the sensor into a bodily lumen; and

coupling the sensor to a section of the bodily lumen.

71. (Amended) Apparatus for fixation of a sensor in a bodily lumen, comprising:

a fixation device; and

a sensor support coupled to the fixation device and including a surface for receiving the sensor [The apparatus of claim 1], wherein:

a material of the sensor support is the same as a material of the fixation device.

76. (Amended) Apparatus for fixation of a sensor in a bodily lumen, comprising:

a fixation device; and

a sensor support coupled to the fixation device and including a surface for receiving the sensor [The apparatus of claim 1], wherein:

the sensor support has a shape that is unaffected by a joining to the sensor.

77. (Amended) Apparatus for fixation of a sensor in a bodily lumen, comprising:

a fixation device; and

a sensor support coupled to the fixation device and including a surface for receiving the sensor [The apparatus of claim 1], wherein:

the sensor support has a predefined and constant shape.

78. (Amended) Apparatus for fixation of a sensor in a bodily lumen, comprising:

a fixation device; and

a sensor support coupled to the fixation device and including a surface for receiving the sensor [The apparatus of claim 1], wherein:

the sensor support is formed of a non-fluid material.